

Bureau of Land Management, Interior

§ 3214.18

unless all previous operations on the land have already been reclaimed.

§ 3214.11 Who must my bond cover?

Your bond must cover all record title owners, operating rights owners, operators, and any person who conducts operations on your lease.

§ 3214.12 What activities must my bond cover?

Your bond must cover:

- (a) Any activities related to exploration, drilling, utilization, or associated operations on a Federal lease;
- (b) Reclamation of the surface and other resources;
- (c) Rental and royalty payments; and
- (d) Compliance with the requirements of § 3200.4.

§ 3214.13 What is the minimum dollar amount required for a bond?

The minimum bond amount varies depending on the type of activity you are proposing and whether your bond will cover individual, statewide, or nationwide activities. The minimum dollar amounts and bonding options for each type of activity are found in the following regulations:

- (a) Exploration operations—see § 3251.15;
- (b) Drilling operations—see § 3261.18; and
- (c) Utilization operations—see §§ 3271.12 and 3273.19.

§ 3214.14 May BLM increase the bond amount above the minimum?

(a) BLM may increase the bond amount above the minimums referenced in § 3214.13 when:

- (1) We determine that the operator has a history of noncompliance;
 - (2) We previously had to make a claim against a surety because any one person who is covered by the new bond failed to plug and abandon a well and reclaim the surface in a timely manner;
 - (3) MMS has notified BLM that a person covered by the bond owes uncollected royalties; or
 - (4) We determine that the bond amount will not cover the estimated reclamation cost.
- (b) We may increase bond amounts to any level, but we will not set that

amount higher than the total estimated costs of plugging wells, removing structures, and reclaiming the surface and other resources, plus any uncollected royalties due MMS or moneys owed to BLM due to previous violations.

§ 3214.15 What kind of financial guarantee will BLM accept to back my bond?

We will not accept cash bonds. We will only accept:

- (a) Corporate surety bonds, provided that the surety company is approved by the Department of Treasury (see Department of the Treasury Circular No. 570, which is published in the FEDERAL REGISTER every year on or about July 1); and
- (b) Personal bonds, which are secured by a cashier's check, certified check, certificate of deposit, negotiable securities such as Treasury notes, or an irrevocable letter of credit (see §§ 3214.21 and 3214.22).

§ 3214.16 Is there a special bond form I must use?

You must use a BLM-approved bond form (Form 3000-4, or Form 3000-4a, June 1988 or later editions) for corporate surety bonds and personal bonds.

§ 3214.17 Where must I submit my bond?

File personal or corporate surety bonds and statewide bonds in the BLM State Office that oversees your lease or operations. You may file nationwide bonds in any BLM State Office. File bond riders in the BLM State Office where your underlying bond is located. For personal or corporate surety bonds, file one originally-signed copy of the bond.

§ 3214.18 Who will BLM hold liable under the lease and what are they liable for?

BLM will hold all interest owners in a lease jointly and severally liable for compliance with the requirements of § 3200.4 for obligations that accrue while they hold their interest. Among other things, all interest owners are jointly and severally liable for:

- (a) Plugging and abandoning wells;